A3275-2

trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 22, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 17 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 6.1 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 352 billion ton-miles, 5.4 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 17 totaled 440,945 cars, 10.8 percent below 1979, and 0.6 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 15.3 percent in the East, 6.3 percent in the South, and 10.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 19 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings totaled 116,260 cars, 3.7 percent higher than 1979, and carloadings of other farm products went up 18.5 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 10 totaled 31,802 cars, down 16.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 57,932 trailers and/or containers, 14.3 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 632,111 cars, 6.4 percent lower than last year, and 1,148,188 trailers and/or containers, down 4.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/17/80.

	Loadings in Week ended May 17, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,963	D	1,684	6.3	D	599	2.3
Other farm products	4,961	I	776	18.5	I	189	4.0
Metallic ores	35,914	D	2,914	7.5	I	1,249	3.6
Coal	116,260	I	4,131	3.7	I	109	0.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,247	D	3,686	19.5	D	419	2.7
Nonmetallic minerals	12,991	D	2,444	15.8	D	2,830	17.9
Grain mill products	16,372	D	1,549	8.6	I	669	4.3
Food and kindred products	18,018	D	639	3.4	I	537	3.1
Primary forest products	19,805	D	1,365	6.4	D	503	2.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,474	D	4,324	33.8	I	540	6.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,921	D	893	4.1	I	645	3.2
Chemicals and allied products	25,363	D	3,662	12.6	D	1,598	5.9
Petroleum products	5,577	D	1,315	19.1	D	59	1.0
Stone, clay and glass products	15,471	D	4,800	23.7	D	659	4.1
Coke	5,664	D	1,784	24.0	I	615	12.2
Metals and products	16,420	D	4,309	20.8	I	465	2.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,706	D	12,108	45.2	D	1,238	7.8
Waste and scrap materials	12,391	D	2,111	14.6	D	38	0.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,259	D	2,237	17.9	D	168	1.6
All other carloads	40,994	D	6,485	13.7	I	286	0.7
LCL traffic	174	D	233	57.2	I	3	1.8
Total Cars Loaded	440,945	D	53,635	10.8	D	2,804	0.6
Corresponding week of 1979	494,580						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	8,851,605	8,906,645	D	0.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
19 weeks cumulative	333.7	314.7	I	6.0
Week ended May 17	17.7	18.9	D	6.1
20 weeks cumulative	351.5	333.6	I	5.4

AARt-052280